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Village collects Loop 202 freeway inquiries, concerns

By Doug Murphy
Staff Writer

Hoping for the best, but preparing for the worst, the Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee is continuing to collect questions on how construction of the South Mountain Loop 202 will impact area residents. "What happens to Liberty Lane and what happens to Desert Foothills Parkway and access to the post office?" asked planning committee chair Doug Cole Monday night.

The planning committee, which opposes the freeway on Pecos Road, is going to collect questions and comments from residents until Jan. 15, then review the information and pass it along to the appropriate city department or to the Arizona Department of Transportation for action.

Comments can be sent to city planner Christine Hood at chris.hood@phoenix.gov. ADOT is in the midst of an environmental impact study looking at updating a 1988 plan that originally designated the Loop 202 where Pecos Road is now. The plan calls for around 255 Ahwatukee Foothills homes to be bought and demolished to make way for the 10-lane, \$1 billion freeway.

To submit questions or concerns to the Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee about the South Mountain Loop 202 and its impact on city residents, e-mail to chris.hood@phoenix.gov between now and Jan. 15.

But the study so far hasn't addressed many of the issues that the city of Phoenix will be left to deal with, including how people who live in the Foothills Preserve west of 27th Avenue would get to their homes if Pecos Road, the only route in or out for them, is torn up by freeway construction.

The issue of how freeway construction and operation will affect residents isn't limited to Ahwatukee Foothills alone since the entire route of the freeway, including the proposed west-side alignment along 51st Avenue, is in the Phoenix city limits.

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